

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-118, the status of which is as follows:

Claims 2, 4, 13-14, 16, 18-20, 22-31, 33-35, 42, 44, 51, 53-54, 56, 58-60, 62-71, and 74-75 are as originally filed.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-12, 15, 17, 21, 32, 36, 38-41, 43, 45-48, 50, 52, 55, 57, 61, 72-73, and 78-80 have been currently amended.

Claims 9, 37, 49, and 76-77 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 81-118 are new.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 31, 33-35, 37, 41-42, 44, 51, 71, and 74-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,341,236 to Osorio et al. Claims 3, 5-30, 32, 36, 38-40, 43, 45-50, 52-70, 72, 73, and 78-80 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

While respectfully disagreeing with the Examiner's grounds for rejection, in order to expedite the issuance of a patent on the subject matter found to be allowable, the Applicant has:

amended claims 1 and 41 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 9 and 49, respectively, and consequently canceled claims 9 and 49; and

amended allowable claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 21, 32, 36, 38, 39, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 55, 57, 61, 72, 73, 78, and 79 to include the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims.

The claims depending from these claims are also in a condition for allowance, being of narrower scope than these allowable claims.

In addition, the Applicant has amended dependent claims 40 and 80 to depend from claims 39 and 79, respectively.

Dependent claims 81-118 are new. These claims recite the features of dependent claims as originally filed, as shown in the following table:

New claim	Depends from claim	Features of claim(s)
81	3	34 and 35
82	7	2
83	7	4
84	8	2
85	8	4
86	10	31
87	11	2
88	15	2
89	15	34 and 35
90	21	2
91	21	4
92	21	31
93	21	34 and 35
94	32	2
95	32	34 and 35
96	36	31
97	47	42
98	47	44
99	48	42
100	48	44
101	55	42
102	55	74 and 75

103	61	42
104	61	44
105	61	71
106	61	74 and 75
107	72	42
108	72	74 and 75
109	78	42
110	78	44
111	78	71
112	78	74 and 75
113	78	51
114	79	42
115	79	44
116	79	51
117	79	71
118	79	74 and 75

Because these new dependent claims are narrower than the allowable claims from which they depend, these claims are in a condition for allowance.

The Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these

amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are now in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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